

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 03134 220043Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /092 W

----- 073951

P R 211655Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3207

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 3134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, AG, MO, SP, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: THE ALGERIAN ANGLE

REF: ALGIERS 3130

1. SUMMARY. IN CONVERSATION OCT. 20, FONMIN SECY GEN BENHABYLES: EMPHASIZED GOA SATISFACTION WITH ICI AND UN COMMISSION FINDINGS; NOTED DEVELOPMENT OF GENUINE SAHRAOUI INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT; TERMED INTERIM SPANISH ROLE FOLLOWED BY REFERENDUM AS LOGICAL EVOLUTION OF SITUATION; AND EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT WITH MOROCCAN MOVE. HEAVY PRESS TREATMENT HAS SOUGHT TO LINK MOROCCAN POLICY WITH IMPERIALISM AND TO PLAY UP APPEAL BEYOND GOM TO MOROCCAN PEOPLE ON SELF-DETERMINATION ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DINNER HE GAVE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON OCT. 20, FONMIN SECY GEN BENHABYLES MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN EXTENSIVE LOW-KEY PRESENTATION ON SAHARA:  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALGIER 03134 220043Z

A. ALGERIAN HAS CONSISTENTLY STOOD FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, IN SAHARA AND ELSEWHERE, AND THUS MOST SATISFIED WITH ICJ AND UN COMMISSION'S FINDINGS.

B. ALGERIAN HAS NO TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS IN COLONY AND IS NOT THEREFORE IN CONFLICT WITH MOROCCANS, AS SOME PROPAGANDA WOULD INDICATE. CONFLICT, IT SEEMS, WOULD BE BETWEEN RIVAL CLAIMANTS, I.E. MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.

C. WITH RESPECT TO HISTORICAL LINKS IN REGION, IDEA OF MODERN NATION-STATE IS RELATIVE NEWCOMER IN NORTH AFRICA. BOUNDARIES NEVER DEFINED AND GENERAL SIZE OF COUNTRY HAS DEPENDED ON POWER AND INFLUENCE OF PARTICULAR RULERS AND TRIBAL LOYALTIES. THUS, ICJ HAS NOTED SAHARA'S TRIBAL LINKS NOT ONLY WITH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA BUT WITH ALGERIA AS WELL.

D. PAST MONTHS HAVE SEEN DEVELOPMENT OF GENUINE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN SAHARA. SUCH DEVELOPMENT ALMOST INEVITABLE WHENEVER COLONIAL POWER ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM A COLONY, AND SAHARA NO EXCEPTION. PROPAGANDA TO EFFECT THAT F POLISARIO MERELY A CREATION OF ALGERIA OBVIOUSLY FALSE.

E. LOGICAL EVOLUTION OF SITUATION WOULD BE TRANSITION PERIOD IN WHICH SPANISH WOULD PLAY CONSIDERABLE ROLE, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC DOMAIN. THEN, UNDER PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, REFERENDUM COULD TAKE PLACE, WITH CONCEIVABLE OPTION BY PEOPLE TO UNITE TERRITORY WITH MOROCCO AND/OR MAURITANIA. PROBLEM OF REFUGEE PARTICIPATION IN REFERENDUM COULD BE SOLVED BY IMPARTIAL AUTHORITY (PRESUMABLY UN) WHICH WOULD EXAMINE STRENGTH OF TIES TO SAHARA OF PERSONS CLAIMING REFUGEE STATUS AND PASS JUDGMENT. REFUGEE PROBLEM, IN OTHER WORDS, COULD BE SOLVED WITH RELATIVE EASE.

F. MOROCCO POSITION DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.  
AT SAME TIME AS MARCH ORGANIZED, GOM HAD SUMMONED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 03134 220043Z

ARAB AND AFRICAN AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING ALGERIAN, AND REQUESTED THAT DELEGATIONS BE DISPATCHED TO SUPPORT MOROCCAN MARCH. (ALGERIAN PRESENT AT DINNER NOTED WRONGLY THAT GOA MIGHT WISH SEND ITS DELEGATION VIA TINDOUF.)

G. TO SUM UP, MOROCCO HAD CREATED SITUATION WHICH IS DANGEROUS AND CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH CANNOT BE

FORESEEN.

3. ALGERIAN DIPLOMATIC AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY INCREASING.  
ON OCT. 20 FOREIGN MINISTRY SUMMONED AFRICAN, ARAB AND ISLAMIC  
LEAGUE AMBASSADORS TO REVIEW SAHARA SITUATION. NEITHER PRESS  
NOR BENHABYLES PROVIDED ANY SUBSTANTIVE  
ACCOUNT OF THIS MEETING.

4. MEDIA TREATMENT OF PROBLEM HEAVY.  
PRESS CARRIED SECOND DEMAND, THIS TIME FROM ALGERIAN  
TRADE UNION., THAT SAHRAOUI BROTHERS BE ALLOWED RIGHT  
TO SELF-DETERMINATION. F POLISARIO AND SAHRAOUI  
NATIONAL UNITY PARTY (PUNS) APPEALS TO UN, ARABS,  
AFRICANS, AND COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ON UN COMMISSION  
ALSO TREATED PROMINENTLY. F POLISARIO, ACCORDING TO  
PRESS, HAD: A) CLAIMED TO HAVE CAPTURED THREE MOROCCAN  
SOLDIERS, B) REPORTED "MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE  
OF 200 SAHRAOUI REFUGEES AND FLIGHT OF NUMEROUS  
OTHERS FROM CAMPS IN MOROCCO," AND C) CALLED UPON  
MOROCCAN PEOPLE BOTH TO STICK WITH SAHRAOUI PEOPLE  
IN ITS ARMED STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND TO SHOW  
SOLIDARITY WITH SAHARAN REFUGEES AGAINST REACTIONARY  
EXPANSIONISTS. NUANCED LIBYAN STATEMENT THAT " VOICE  
OF SAHRAOIS AND THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN UP ARMS MUST  
BE HEARD." THRUST OF PRESS TREATMENT HAS BEEN TO  
LINK MOROCCAN MOVE WITH IMPERIALISM AND TO BROADCAST  
APPEAL BEYOND GOM TO MOROCCAN PEOPLE.

5. DETAILED NEWS COVERAGE OF SAHARA SITUATION  
INCLUDED SPANISH REPORT THAT NORTHERN SAHARA HAD  
BEEN MINED.

6. COMMENT: ALGERIAN ACTING MORE AND MORE LIKE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ALGIER 03134 220043Z

INTERESTED PARTY AND MAY BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE. ITS  
DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN COMING DAYS. BENHABYLES IS  
SECOND ALGERIAN OFFICIAL IN RECENT DAYS TO HAVE RAISED  
WITH US POSSIBILITY OF SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN SOME  
SORT OF TRANSITIONAL REGIME IN SAHARA.

7. ALGERIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF SAHARA MUCH HEAVIER  
THAN PREVIOUSLY. LIGHTNESS OF PRESS COVERAGE DURING  
PAST FEW WEEKS HAS SEEMED ALMOST STUDIED. NOW,  
ALTHOUGH COMMUNAL ELECTIONS STILL TAKE PRECEDENCE,  
PROPAGANDA MACHINE SERIOUSLY ENGAGED IN NEW ANTI-  
IMPERIALIST CRUSADE.  
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SELFDETERMINATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ALGIER03134  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750365-0814  
**From:** ALGIERS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751034/aaaabekn.tel  
**Line Count:** 167  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 ALGIERS 3130  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPANISH SAHARA: THE ALGERIAN ANGLE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, AG, MO, SP, SS, ICJ, UN, (BENHABYLES, AD DEL MALEK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006